UK Met Office to work with Vietnam to improve their weather and climate services

Vietnam will now get more support from British scientists to improve its weather and climate forecasting on short, seasonal and long range time scales thanks to a new international agreement.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed to enable the Met Office to assist MONROE , the Department for Hydrology, Meteorology and Climate change (DHMCC), the National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology Forecast (NCHMF), and Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (IMHEN) improve its weather and climate forecasting on short, seasonal and long range time scales through a range of technical assistance projects, training and consultancy services.

This will involve developing climate services, conducting climate change research, improving the accuracy of meteorological and hydrological forecasting, and enhancing environmental protection.

Toward this end, both institutions intend to develop a programme of collaborative work for research and training on climate services, climate change, meteorology and hydrology; to provide better scientific evidence to support environmentally sustainable and low carbon economic growth.

Stephen Belcher, Head of the Met Office Hadley Centre, said: "I am delighted that we have signed this agreement. It means that the UK Met Office will be able to help the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Vietnam improve their weather and climate services. This collaboration will enable them to protect and plan for the future by understanding how to mitigate against the impacts of climate change."

Business Minister Michael Fallon, who is responsible for the Met Office said: "This agreement is an important step to help improve weather and climate resilience in Vietnam and south-east Asia. The Met Office is a world leader in forecasting and climate services and partnerships like this build on the UK's reputation for science and technology overseas".

By working together, both organizations hope to achieve the same mutual goals, which include:

- Joint research and development of climate services;
- Climate change scenario development;
- Meteorological and hydrological forecasting on all time scales; and
- Providing scientific evidence to support climate change adaptation and mitigation policies.

The partnership seeks to include expertise from all sectors of society and provide incentives for engagement at a national level within Vietnam as well as through business and academic sectors and non-governmental organizations.

With the implementation of this MOU, Vietnam and the UK hope to strengthen a long-term relationship through which the UK can support Vietnam in adapting to the impacts of severe weather and climate change.

This latest agreement with Vietnam follows a number of partnerships and collaborations for the Met Office, both in the UK and internationally. For example, the Met Office is also working with:

- the Singapore National Environment Agency (NEA) to help build climate science capabilities to prepare for climate change;
- the Department for International Development and African stakeholders to improve the understanding and practical predication of African climate change in order to help alleviate poverty;
- a cluster of leading UK universities to advance the science and skill of weather and climate prediction;
- the National Environment Research Council in the Joint Weather and Climate Research Programme which aims to grow the UK's leading role in weather and climate research;
- global national meteorological services and research institutes including in Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Norway, India and South Africa who collaborate on the use and development of the Met Office Unified Model, used for weather and climate forecasting.

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